

(Classification)

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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : HABANA

416

September 10, 1951

DESP. NO.

DATE

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

AIR POUCH

INFO

IN

NSRB

18

TAN

For Dept.

DPA

Use Only

REF : HABANA 2518, JUNE 21, 1951

SUBJECT: FORMER CUBAN MINISTER OF STATE CONSIDERED RECOGNIZING MEXICO'S CLAIM TO NINE MILES OF TERRITORIAL WATERS

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Miguel SUAREZ Fernandez, until very recently Cuban Minister of State, two months ago considered recognizing Mexico's claim to nine miles of territorial waters. In exchange for this recognition Mexico was to allow Cuban fishermen to fish within its coastal waters. This, briefly, is the essence of information secured to-day from a usually reliable informant.

The informant stated that Suarez Fernandez two months ago called into his office the Secretary of the Sindicato de Pescadores de La Habana, the only union of fishermen in Cuba, and inquired of him whether the Union would approve recognition by congressional law of Mexico's claim to nine miles of territorial waters in exchange for a trade agreement which would include a clause enabling Cuban fishermen to fish in Mexico's coastal waters and Mexican fishermen to fish in Cuban waters. According to the Embassy's informant, the Secretary of the fishermen's union promptly pointed out to Suarez Fernandez the inequity of the proposal. A trade agreement could be modified at Mexico's whim, the Secretary of the Union reportedly retorted, whereas a congressional law could not.

The Embassy's informant added that ever since May 1951, when the Cuban President personally appealed to the Mexican President and invoked their long-standing friendship to have released three Cuban vessels which had been interned in Progreso, Yucatan, Cuban fishermen have been fishing unmolested in Mexican waters.

For the Ambassador:

Guy L. Bush
Agricultural Attaché

Copies sent to:

McWalter (MID)

Stanley Andrews (OFAR, Dept. of Agric.)

Ambassy, Mexico D.F.

Prepared by:

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~~RESTRICTED~~

REPORTER(S)

PREPARATION TIME

Guas.

*Subject: Mexico's Claim To Nine
Miles Of Territorial Waters
Allegedly Is Forcing Half The
Cuban Deep-Water Fishing
Fleet To Discontinue Operations.*

Habana ¹³⁰⁰ Dec. 19, 1950 State

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